

Social and Family Services

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What about older people?

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Honourable Thomas L. Wells



A place to live

Today's Homes for the Aged and Rest Homes Act ensures that every county and city is able to offer to those men and women over 60 who require it, the physical comforts of a family-like home. To see that a high standard is maintained in each of these Homes, the Department of Social and Family Services provides both financial aid and supervisory help.

We all grow older. That's why the Ontario Department of Social and Family Services plans programs with senior citizens to help meet their social, educational, and medical needs.

The Department meets these needs in a variety of ways — foster homes for the elderly; homemakers' services; and social assistance programs for those with financial worries.

The Department also actively encourages and financially supports Elderly Persons' Centres and promotes research into the special needs of the aged.

However the most extensive program is specialized Homes for the elderly. Today there is room for over 23,000 residents in more than 160 Homes.

Municipal Homes may be operated by the neighbouring city, town, district, county and regional government or Indian Band council. For these Homes the Department pays a high percentage of the cost of building or remodelling and, in conjunction with the federal government, also helps meet the continuing costs of operating such Homes for the Aged.

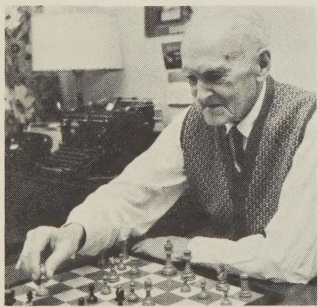
Charitable Homes are operated by private non-profit organizations, such as religious and fraternal groups, service clubs and others, yet are open to members and non-members alike. For charitable Homes for the Aged the Department provides a building grant based on

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the number of residents the Home can accommodate and, in conjunction with the federal government, significantly assists in meeting the day-to-day operating costs.

The Department's interest in Homes for the Aged extends beyond financial support. Under the Homes for the Aged Branch, standards are being improved for qualifications of administrators and staff, admission procedures, socio-medical services at the Home, fire protection, architectural-environmental designs and financial records. In addition, professional advice on how to set up a Home, how to operate one, and how to organize an interesting program of activities is also provided. Full-time



crafts and activities supervisors help Homes plan events, set up art and craft programs, and provide the little extras, such as a film directory or a large print songbook.

Both charitable and municipal Homes are

being encouraged to integrate their services with other community resources, to make their physical facilities serve a wide range of supportive programs. Increasingly then, Homes, with Provincial help, will serve the larger community as well.

Who can live in a Home for the Aged?

An applicant must be over 60 years old and in need of care. Homes for the Aged are for people who cannot live alone in the community but who do not need hospital supervision. These include:

- Persons who simply require everyday residential care.
- Married couples who need special accommodation and care.
- Older persons who may be confused but who do not require active mental health services such as provided in an Ontario psychiatric hospital.

Most Homes provide all these types of care, so that if the residents' conditions change, they can remain in the same Home as long as they want, without moving from the familiar surroundings, except when acute conditions call for it.

While the Province of Ontario, together with the Board that operates a Home, pays for the building, the furnishings and the equipment of a Home, residents are expected to pay the cost of their own care according to their ability. Each Home has a set price per month, based on what it actually costs the Home to care for a resident. Those who cannot make a substantial contribution to their care, such as those who are on a pension, are assisted by the cost-sharing arrangements which the Province has with the Homes.

What's in a Home?

Socio-medical services are recognized in all Homes for the Aged. Although providing long-term residential care, these Homes are in no way extensions of hospital services. Residents receive regular visits by the Home Physician while personal care, as needed, is offered under the supervision of Registered Nurses and other Home staff.

Besides such services, personal needs and in-

terests are of vital concern. Each Home is designed to serve the special needs of the elderly, with special emphasis on personal privacy and choice. In many locations, there are pleasant sitting rooms, and small parlours where visitors can be received. All new Homes contain such features as chapels, auditoriums, libraries, hobby rooms, tuck shops, beauty parlours and the like, all within the boundaries of the Home. Other community services may be linked to the Home.

The Department of Social and Family Services also employs several consultants on community services and activities who encourage the development of varied and meaningful programs in each Home. There is an activity to suit everyone's interests from newspaper publications, bazaars, leathercrafts, choir singing and sewing to gardening, dancing,



bowling and photography — even a shooting gallery. This shows concern not only for physical and material well-being but also those areas of interest which make life rich and happy.

With the development of Residents' Councils in Homes for the Aged, elderly men and women are taking part in administrative decisions and planning their own social and educational programs.

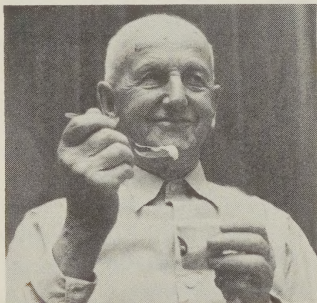
Those who live at home

The majority of elderly citizens do not need the specialized accommodation and care facilities of a Home for the Aged. Yet the Department recognizes that they, too, have special needs. They too have the desire to be of service and to find satisfying ways of using increased leisure time.

Some people who are partially able to look after themselves, prefer to live in their own familiar home. Such people if necessary, may be eligible for the excellent services of agencies such as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the St. Elizabeth Order of Nurses or the Visiting Homemakers, right in their own home. For those unable to pay for such a service, the Province and municipality

share the cost. Hospital and community Home Care programs are also being expanded by the Province.

Other elderly persons who wish to remain in the community can live in special boarding homes. These are homes which interested persons make available to offer the elderly a home-like atmos-



phere. Such a home can receive guidance from a nearby Home for the Aged and the elderly guest can benefit from many of the Home's services.

Rent-geared-to-income Senior Citizens' Housing is another "at home" which is provided through the Ontario Housing Corporation.

Vacation care and day care are two other services which may benefit those living in the community.

We care about social needs

Those who live in their own dwellings or apartments need not miss the community life which a Home for the Aged offers. There are now over twenty social, recreational and day care Centres for the elderly providing a variety of programs and daily activities as well as help with personal matters. The Department encourages interested groups to form such Centres by providing building grants in co-operation with the local community. Each Centre may receive annual financial aid from the Department to assist with their program costs. In fact, new Homes for the Aged are encouraged to incorporate an Elderly Persons' Centre into the design of the Home so that both the residents and the elderly in the community can share the facilities.

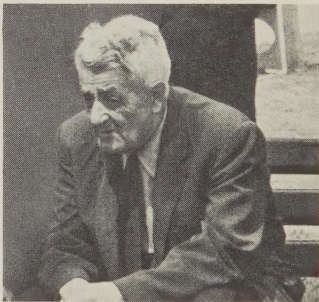
Medical and hospital insurance

A person receiving the federal Old Age Security pension, if he is in need,

may qualify for free medical and hospital insurance by applying to the nearest Regional Office listed at the back of this pamphlet.

Income and liquid assets are taken into account in determining need. Liquid assets may not be over \$1,000 for a single person or over \$1,500 for a married couple. Where there is an annual income not over \$2,250 for the individual or \$3,750 for a couple, coverage is provided. Where income exceeds these amounts, persons may be eligible when budgetary requirements exceed income.

Other benefits too may be available, such as



financial assistance, so check with the Regional Office.

And the future?

The Ontario Government and its Department of Social and Family Services have accepted the responsibility of directing efforts to areas which go beyond the day-to-day needs of elderly people. Continued research is carried on into some of the aspects of gerontology to provide up-to-date knowledge about the processes of aging. The Department also provides public information on matters concerning the elderly and on the preparation necessary for retirement.

The Department is assisted by the Minister's Advisory Committee on Geriatric Studies, the Ontario Geriatric Study Centre and other professional organizations.

There are many other departments of the Ontario Government which provide related services for the aged. These range from medical, hospital, and extended care services (Department of Health), pedestrian safety (Transport), low-rental housing (Ontario Housing Corporation), protection against age dis-



crimination (Ontario Human Rights Commission) to consumer protection (Financial and Commercial Affairs).

Special appreciation is due to voluntary organizations such as the Ontario Geriatrics Research Society; Section on Aging of the Ontario Welfare Council; Services for Seniors Committee, Ontario Division, Canadian Red Cross Society; organized senior citizens' and pensioners' groups, among many others, for their contributions.

For more information

Further information can be obtained from the Home nearby or from the Department at the following address:

Homes for the Aged —
Office on Aging,
Department of Social and
Family Services,
5th Floor, Hepburn Block,
Queen's Park,
TORONTO 182, Ontario.

Where to go to find out more about programs of the Department

BARRIE
23 Clapperton St.
Box 218. 726-6448

BELLEVILLE
Room 2, 14 Bridge St. W.
Box 816. 968-3506

CHATHAM
Weymar Bldg.
48-Fifth St. 352-5040

CORNWALL
132 Second St. E.
Box 1358. 932-3381

HAMILTON
Ste. 525, 135 James St. S.
Box 870. 528-9884

KEEWATIN
104 Government Rd.
Box 429. 547-2801

KINGSTON
797 Princess St.
Box 970. 544-6206

KIRKLAND LAKE
44 Prospect Ave.
567-3391

LINDSAY
Ontario Government Bldg.
324-6121 Ext. 51

LONDON
764 Dundas St. E.
433-2821

NORTH BAY, Suite 408,
222 McIntyre St. W.
Box 327. 474-3540

OTTAWA
2197 East Riverside Dr.
Pebb Bldg. 737-5520

OWEN SOUND
347 Ninth St. E.
376-1951

RENFREW
315 Raglan St.
432-4809

SAULT STE. MARIE
123 March St.
P.O. Box 68. 256-5666

ST. CATHARINES
15 Church St.
Box 176. 685-8423

SUDBURY
127 Cedar St.
Drawer 1120
674-3151 Ext. 271

THUNDER BAY
1111 Victoria Ave.
622-3934

TORONTO
110 Eglinton Ave. W.
487-4392

WATERLOO
5th Floor,
Waterloo Square,
75 King St. S.
579-3130

WINDSOR
374 Ouellette Ave.
254-9231

WINGHAM
Box 510
357-3370



The Honourable Thomas L. Wells,
Minister

M. Borczak,
Deputy Minister